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ABSTRACT

This document considers sexual preference as it specifically relates to women. Divided into two parts, the document presents a fact sheet about lesbianism and contains a workshop resource guide on sexual preference. The fact sheet, arranged in a question-answer format, focuses on the following concerns: (1) lesbianism as a woman's issue; (2) legal problems and obstacles encountered (such as employment, housing, child custody, taxes, and credit); (3) the role of the media; (4) common myths and stereotypes; and (5) organizations and legislation currently available to support and help gay rights. The workshop resource guide lists resources and suggests guidelines for organizing a workshop on sexual preference, specifically lesbianism. The workshop is intended to provide an overview about issues lesbians face and to discuss ways to obtain protective legislation and to dispel myths and stereotypes. Included are a bibliography of books and films and other related material, a list of lesbian organizations by state, a list of lesbian community service centers, and a list of organizations that support lesbian rights. (Author/JR)

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# SEXUAL PREFERENCE

NATIONAL COMMISSION
OF THE OBSERVANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

SØ 010 921

Members, National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1977

Bella S. Abzug, of New York, New York
Presiding Officer, National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year
Attorney and Former U. S. Congresswoman (D-N.Y.)
Founder and Former Chair, National Women's Political Caucus
Congressional Advisor to the U. S. Delegation to the UN World Conference on IWY in Mexico City, July 1975

Ruth J. Abram, of New York, New York
Executive Director, Women's Action Alliance.

Maya Angelou, of Sonoma, California
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Elizabeth Athanasakos, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
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Betty Blanton, of Nashville, Tennessee
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Cecilia Preciado Burciaga, of Palo Alto, California
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Liz Carpenter, of Austin, Texas
Co-Chair, ERAmerica; Writer, Consultant at L.B.J. Library.

John Mack Carter,of New York, New York
Editor-in-Chief, Good Housekeeping Magazine

Sey Chassler, of New York, New York
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Ruth C. Clusen, of Green Bay, Wisconsin
President, National League of Women Voters.

Audrey Rowe Colom, of Washington, D.C.
Former Chair, National Women's Political Caucus; Director of Women's Activities, Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Jane Culbreth, of Leeds, Alabama
Immediate Past President (1976-77), National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; Corporate Officer, Moss-Thornton Company.

Harry T. Edwards, of Ann Arbor, Michigan
Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School

Rita Elway, of Seattle, Washington
Communications Researchers; Founder, Asian Pacific Women's Caucus; Board Member, Japanese American Citizen's League.

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Betty Ford, of Palm Springs, California
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Bernice S. Frieder, of Lakeood, Ohio
Former National Officer, National Council of Jewish Women.

Martha Griffiths, of Romeo, Michigan
Member, Griffiths and Griffiths Law Firm; Member of Congress (D-MI), 1955-1975.

Dorothy Haener, of Detroit, Michigan
International Representative, Women's Department, United Auto Workers; Board Member, National Committee on Household Employment.

Rhea Mojica Hammer, of Chicago, Illinois
Businesswoman; Journalist-Newspaper Publisher of El-Charin; Consultant, Latino Unlimited; Advisory Board, National Women's Political Caucus.

LaDonna Harris, of Albuquerque, New Mexico
President, Americans for Indian Opportunity; Member, Common Cause.

Lenore Hershey, of New York, New York
Editor-in-Chief, Ladies' Home Journal.

Koryne Horbal, of Minneapolis, Minnesota
U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; Chair, Women's Caucus, Democratic National Committee.

Members, National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1977

Mildred Jeffrey, of Detroit, Michigan
Chair, National Women's Political Caucus; Board Member, Consumer Federation of America; Founder, Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Jeffalyn Johnson, of Arlington, Virginia
Management Consultant; Former Associate Director, Dean and Senior Professor, Federal Executive Institute.

Coretta Scott King, of Atlanta, Georgia
Civil Rights Worker; Founder, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Center, Atlanta.

Mary Anne Krupsak, of Canajoharie, New York
Lieutenant Governor, State of New York

Margaret J. Mealey, of Washington, D.C.
Executive Director, National Council of Catholic Women; Former Member, Citizen's Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Jean O'Leary, of New York, New York
Co-Executive Director, National Gay Task Force; Member, Regional Advisory Committee to the New York State Human Rights Division.

Mildred E. Persinger, of Dobbs Ferry, New York
UN Representative of National Board, Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A.; Organizing Chair of the non-governmental Tribune of the UN World Conference on IWY in Mexico City, July 1975.

Connie Plunkett, of Carrollton, Georgia
Member, Affirmative Action Committee of the Democratic National Committee; Former City Councilwoman, Carrollton; Deputy Campaign Director, Campaign Staff, Carter-Mondale Campaign.

Ersa Poston, of Washington, D.C.
Member U.S. Civil Service Commission; Former Commissioner and Past President, New York Civil Service Commission.

Claire Randall, of New York, New York
General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Alice S. Rossi, of Amherst, Massachusetts
Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts; Chair, Board of Directors, Social Science Research Council, New York.

Gloria Scott, of Houston, Texas
National President, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; Professor of Higher Education, Texas Southern University; Member, Board of Directors, National Urban League.

Eleanor Smeal, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
President, National Organization for Women; Homemaker.

Jean Stapleton, of Los Angeles, California
Actress, two-time Emmy-winner for "All in the Family."

Gloria Steinem, of New York, New York
Editor, MS Magazine; Chair of the Board, Women's Action Alliance.

Ethel Taylor, of Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania
National Coordinator, Women Strike for Peace.

Carmen Delgado Votaw, of Bethesda, Maryland
U.S. Delegate to the Inter American Commission on Women of the OAS, President, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

Gerridee Wheeler, of Bismark, North Dakota
Member, Republican National Committee; Past President, National Association for Mental Health.

Addie Wyatt, of Chicago, Illinois
Vice President, Coalition of Labor Union Women; Vice President, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; Citizens for Day Care, Illinois.

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Representative Margaret Heckler, from Massachusetts.

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## FACT SHEET

## SEXUAL PREFERENCE

### WHY IS LESBIANISM A WOMAN'S ISSUE?

Why? Because lesbians are women. Many women experience multiple discrimination, such as sex and race, or age and poverty, and lesbians are no exception. For lesbians, both sex and sexual preference pose blocks to full participation in society. Abridgement of the basic rights of any woman diminishes the freedom of all women. Lesbians are well aware of this, and have worked tirelessly, demanding free abortion when they cannot even have legal sex, equal pay for equal work when they cannot even keep their jobs, child care centers when they cannot even keep their children, and equal sharing of household chores when they cannot even live together openly. Lesbians put women first, and as feminists they work for a better world for all women. Lesbianism is only a personal solution in a sexist society, unless it is understood politically and worked for collectively.

Rigid sex-role socialization limits the choices of women. Because most lesbians choose not to live with a man, they are also choosing to be economically self-supporting and are departing from traditional role expectations for American women. Symbolically and actually, lesbian women challenge sex-role stereotypes by living same-sex lifestyles. As such, lesbians are often the focus of attempts to "keep women in their place."

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A lesbian is a woman whose sense of self and energies, including sexual energies, center around women -- she is woman-identified. The woman-identified woman commits herself to other women for political, emotional, physical, and economic support. Women are important to her. She is important to herself. Our society demands that commitment from women be reserved for men. * In return, heterosexual women receive privileges that stem from being attached to men. If you want some indication of what those privileges are, "announce to everyone, family, roommate, on the job, everywhere you go, that you are a Lesbian. Walk in the street and go out only with women, especially at night. Imagine your life, economically and emotionally, with women instead of men. For a whole week, experience life as if you were a lesbian, and you will learn quickly what heterosexual privileges and assumptions are . . . and that self-loving and independent women are a challenge to the idea that men are superior, an idea that social institutions strengthen and enshrine." **

It has been a painful fact that almost any woman who did not choose to play a traditional or secondary role, might find herself labeled "too aggressive", "independent", and finally, "a lesbian", and limited in her efforts for fear of the effects of that label.

The women's movement has often been divided by this fear. Lesbians have been forced to remain quiet and "in the closet" for fear of negative coverage by media, or for fear that society would think the movement was just "a bunch of lesbians". It should be simple to treat the lesbian issue like any other women's issue, and one that affects all of our lives. The fact that it isn't -- the fact that a woman's right to control of her own body and life does not stop short at sexuality --

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* Charlotte Bunch, "Lesbianism and the Women's Movement," ed. Bunch and Myron, Diana Press, Baltimore, MD.

** Charlotte Bunch, "Learning from Lesbian Separation," Ms. Magazine, November 1976.

points out the political intimidation felt by women who are afraid to be labeled lesbians. Only when the word "lesbian" has lost its power to intimidate and oppress -- only when it is as positive as other human choices -- will each individual woman be able to live without fear. Today lesbians bear the brunt of discrimination against those who are striving for freedom for women, and equality in this society. But any woman who steps out of line is in danger of suffering the same discrimination. Women must stick together, and refuse to be divided by fear and threats. It is time for women to turn to women on all levels and start working for themselves. Lesbianism is a very special women's issue, because on the deepest level it affects all women, no matter what their sexual orientation.

QUESTIONS THAT ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED OF LESBIANS

Q. Why should we support the lesbian issue as a women's issue? It affects as many gay men as it does women.

A. That's like saying the women's movement doesn't affect men. Women are discriminated against because men (and some women) have been taught to think that women are only good for certain kinds of tasks in life, and don't have the stamina or decisiveness of mind to operate in the areas that have been the traditional preserves of males. They think so because they have been taught that personality is a function of gender, and that women have to conform to the socially-imposed traits assigned them, or they aren't "real women". This sex-role stereotyping is exactly the basis for discrimination against lesbians. Women are only supposed to love men (and cook their dinners and care for their children), or they aren't real women -- and somebody who is not a real woman is less than a full human being. It is essential for feminist women to see that each and every one of the stereotypes must be broken down in order for <u>all</u> women to be free from centuries of second-class status. If lesbians stay second-class citizens, this means that the stereotypes will not have been broken -- and all women will continue to be labeled "lesbians" if they insist on their right to be strong, vital, independent human beings.

Q. Won't other women be frightened away from the women's movement if they think that lesbians are involved? Even if there are lesbians in the movement, we shculd not publicize these issues.

A. Yes, some women are frightened of lesbians, just as they are frightened of any women who have, in one way or another, broken away from the traditional, conventional roles. The fact that there are choices and options available to women that do not come out of the standard and oppressive notions of what it means to be a woman should be communicated. This does not mean that everyone needs to, or is going to, make "unconventional" choices. It does mean, however, that when "conventional" choices are made, they are choices. When that happens, women who are different from others won't represent a threat.

Cultural change is always frightening to some people. Women must be shown that there is nothing to fear from cultural change that allows everyone the widest latitude in the search for personal fulfillment.

Q. If it's really true, as you say, that lesbians are everywhere, in every job and profession, including teaching and taking care of children, why do you need civil rights to protect you?

A. Because lesbians are forced to join a conspiracy to pretend they don't exist and live in fear of discovery. They fear that discovery will mean the loss of their jobs. That is why legislation is necessary. If Jews were still changing their names and bobbing their noses and pretending to be Presbyterians in order to get jobs, would you say that Jews weren't discriminated against?

Q. But, being a lesbian isn't the same as being Jewish. What you do in bed is your own business, so long as you keep it to yourself. What you're asking for is a license to flaunt your private life in public.

A. Let's take a look at who is doing the flaunting. If you were a lesbian you'd realize that there is hardly a heterosexual who doesn't indicate their sexual orientation within five minutes of conversation. They talk about where they went last weekend with their husband or wife or dates, how many children they have produced; they let you know which (opposite sex) movie stars they think are particularly sexy. They sometimes embrace and kiss in public places. They don't, for the most part, tell you what they do in bed and lesbians have no desire to do that either. Lesbians do not think they should be required to censor themselves when nobody else is required to do it.

Q. What you do isn't the same as what we do. You may not like the "sodomy" laws, but the fact is that 32 of our States still have them* So, by asking for gay rights you are asking for legislation to grant full civil rights to a class of criminals. Get the sodomy laws repealed first.

A. The law is clear. Only actions can be crimes; just being a lesbian isn't a crime anyplace. Besides, the sodomy laws in virtually every State make no distinction between the sexual practices of many heterosexual couples, and the sex acts practiced by many (but not all) lesbian couples.** They are all criminalized by

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* Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin.

** For example, a national opinion poll conducted for Redbook Magazine found oral-genital sex to be almost universally practiced by married couples. (Redbook Magazine, September 1975, p. 52.)

these laws. The existence of sodomy laws lends itself to persecution and abuse through selective enforcement against individuals chosen for harassment.

Q. Criminals or not, there aren't enough of you to worry about. Why should we go to all the trouble of passing laws to protect an insignificant group of people?

A. It is a cherished American principle that the rights of a minority, no matter how small, ought not be abridged. Most people don't have the faintest idea as to how many lesbians there are, but hazard saying there aren't very many. At the same time they tell lesbians to be invisible. According to Dr. Paul H. Gebbard, head of the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research, ". . . when one speaks of homosexuality one is talking about something that involves millions, not thousands, of U.S. citizens. . ." (Letter to National Gay Task Force, March 18, 1977).

Q. So, there are a lot of you -- but what makes you think you deserve to be singled out for special treatment? What about laws to protect heterosexuals?

A. The purpose of civil rights laws is not to single out anybody for special benefits, but to protect groups of people who have already been singled out for discrimination. Such laws also would protect women and men who are mistakenly thought to be gay.

Q. What about affirmative action -- aren't you going to ask for preferential hiring of gay people?

A. Lesbians may be found in all socio-economic strata in our society. They have not been ghettoized in terms of education or neighborhoods while growing up. Besides, there is absolutely no way to take a census of employees to find out how many gay people are working at present, and the experiences of "gay rights" laws in the 39 communities (see page 24) that have such legislation indicate that there is not going to be a wholesale march out of the closets. So there isn't much need or possibility for "affirmative action."

Q. I'm glad to hear you're not rushing out of the closets. That is the thing that worries me most. As Anita Bryant says, "The real reason for opposing gay rights laws is to make sure that lesbians, especially lesbian teachers, will not be allowed to preach their sexual standards to or otherwise influence impressionable, young people."

A. Most children were led to believe that every one of their leaders and every other nice person they knew was heterosexual. Yet not all children adopted the orientation of their teachers. Lesbians would like children to learn that gay people are not the irresponsible freaks they are supposed to be, but can be warm, strong, sensitive, responsible, moral people.

Q. You may be nice people, and I might even invite you for dinner, but I don't want to encourage my child to be gay. If we pass gay rights laws, what we are really saying is that being homosexual is just as good as being heterosexual, and that we are telling our kids that it is all right to be gay.

A. As a matter of fact, civil rights laws don't encourage anybody to be anything. If you say that people ought not to be discriminated against because they are Catholic or Buddhist, that doesn't mean your children are going to be Catholic or Buddhist. It simply means the rights of Catholics and Buddhists should be respected.

Q. What kind of discrimination do lesbians face, which could be rectified by protective civil rights legislation? *

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* Note: Much of the following material was extracted from "Legal Problems and Remedies," by Jean O'Leary, in Our Right to Love: A Lesbian Resource Book, edited by Ginny Vida and scheduled for publication by Prentice Hall in October 1977.

A. EMPLOYMENT: Lesbians suffer from employment discrimination in several different ways, some of them obvious and some quite subtle. Most obvious is when an employer, whether private or governmental, simply refuses to accept gay employees: an open gay person cannot be hired and any closeted gays already working are fired if their sexual orientation becomes known (or, perhaps, even suspected). In many such cases there is not even a shabby rationale for such practices; they are based on rank prejudice. As revealed in various public opinion samplings, a surprisingly large percentage of the American people, nearly a majority, is already willing to reject and condemn this sort of discrimination. *

Far more difficult to combat, however, is employment discrimination that is based on false assumptions. For instance, there is still considerable resistance to hiring acknowledged lesbians or gay men for any jobs, such as teaching or counseling, involving close contact with young people. The assumption is that homosexuality can be learned and there is great fear of positive gay role models. It is also thought that gays cannot be trusted with children or young people without "molesting" them sexually. This is not the view of those in a position to know the facts -- for instance, the National Education Association, the

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* A 1973 National Opinion Research Poll found 47.3% of the respondents willing to let homosexuals teach in colleges and universities. ("Homophobia: Illness or Disease?", Kenneth Sherrill, paper presented to 1974 Annual Meeting of American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 1974.) An April 1977 telephone poll conducted by television station KCBD of Lubbock, Texas, found 46% of the viewers would not reject a job applicant solely on the basis of homosexuality. NBC-TV conducted a telephone poll in December 1975 and found that 40% felt homosexuals should be allowed to become school teachers.

American Federation of Teachers, and the United Federation of Teachers, who have issued statements of support for gay rights. (See pages 25 and 58.) The truth is that child molestation is overwhelmingly a heterosexual phenomenon (usually adult males attracted to young girls), and that it is almost non-existent among lesbians.

Employment discrimination against lesbianism does not end with unfair hiring restrictions. There continue to be problems even after a lesbian is hired. Simply avoiding being "found out" and fired as a result can require an elaborate pattern of deception and dissimulation. It is always assumed that one is either married or looking for someone to marry, and office gossip tends to center around "the dating game". Lesbians must fend off proposals, or just propositions, from members of the opposite sex, as well as well-intentioned efforts at matchmaking, without arousing suspicion. If a lesbian has a lover, she cannot talk about her in the way others talk about their mates, nor come to an office party with her, nor claim any joint benefits. Lesbians thus tend to become isolated from their working colleagues.

Explicit legal guarantees are of use only to someone who is willing to identify herself as gay in order to file a complaint. There must be a considerable shift in attitudes before most gays will feel that they risk less by claiming their rights under law than by suffering discrimination in silence.

HOUSING: Much of the discrimination in housing is directed toward single lesbians living alone and is largely shared with other singles; this can often be fought under existing laws prohibiting discrimination based on marital status. Lesbians living together can face more difficult problems, particularly if they are of an age when the "roommate" excuse is no longer plausible, and especially if they wish to rent or purchase a house together. The right to buy or rent may be refused not explicitly because of the fact or suspicion of homosexuality, but simply because an area is zoned for "family use" and two women (or two men) are not considered a family.

Most lesbians do not feel free to be affectionate with each other in their neighborhoods in a way that heterosexuals take for granted: they often avoid holding hands or kissing goodnight on the doorstep out of a realistic fear of eviction from which there is no recourse to law.

Municipal ordinances barring housing discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference are of some help with these problems, as a general Federal (or State) gay rights law would be. As a preliminary step, efforts are being made to persuade the Department of Housing and Urban Development to amend its own regulations so that all Federal housing grants explicitly prohibit discrimination against gay people by the governmental or private grant recipients.

CHILD CUSTODY Many lesbians and gay men either first realize or first come to accept their own sexual orientation after they are already married, and often after they have had children. Such marriages often end in divorce, and the laws are usually interpreted so as to deny custody of the children - and, sometimes, even adequate visitation rights - to the gay parent. At present, custody is generally awarded to the mother. However, judges often decide that a mother's lesbianism makes her "unfit" to care for her own children, who are then either given to the father* or else institutionalized.** But homosexuality as such, has nothing to do with a given person's ability to love and nuture children. There may be gay parents who are in some way "unfit" to raise children, but it is not because they are gay.

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* Townend v. Townend, Ohio Court of Common Pleas, Portage County, 3/14/75, 1 Family Law Reporter 2830, 10/21/75. Chaffin v. Frye, 45 California Appellate 3rd, 39, 119 California Reporter 22, 1975. In re Jane B., 85 Misc. 2nd, 515, 38 New York State 2nd 848, 1976.

**In re Tammy F., 1 Civ. 32648 California Court of Appeals, 8/21/73.

There have been some scattered victories for lesbian mothers in child custody cases,* but there is as yet no widespread trend towards reform in this area. Indeed, as gay women and men become more open about their life-styles, ex-spouses may insert the issue of their "fitness" into custody hearings more often, giving more judges an opportunity to decide according to their prejudices. What is needed is reform of the laws in order to leave judges less discretion in awarding custody; the law should spell out precisely what constitutes unfitness, and should explicitly state that homosexuality as such does not.

TAXES: Currently the Federal income tax laws, as well as those of most of the States (and those municipalities that tax incomes), favor married couples over singles when only one partner has an income. Obviously a relic of the "a woman's place is in the home" stereotype, it is unfair to both groups, and the "social goal" of discouraging working mothers is no longer an acceptable justification. If two adults share a single income, they should be able to divide it between them for tax purposes, as if each individually had an income half the total. Similarly if both have an income but one is larger, they should be able to pool them and assign equal shares to each. Deductions for children or other dependents, if any, should also be able to be shared. But there is no reason to distinguish between heterosexual and homosexual, married and unmarried couples in determining who is qualified for this option all that should count is the fact that the income is shared to maintain a single household.

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* Whitehead v. Black, CV-76-422 & 426, Sup. Ct., Cumberland County, Maine, 6/14/76; Isaacson v. Isaacson, D-36837, Wash. Sup. Ct., King County, 9/3/74; Schuster v. Schuster D-36868, Wash. Sup. Ct., King County, 9/3/74; H. v. H., 55900 Ohio C.P. Ct., Licking County, Division of Domestic Relations, 6/74; People v. Brown, 49 Michigan App. 258, 212 N.W. 2nd 55, 1973.

Gay organizations are also discriminated against by the Internal Revenue Service. Its policy has been to deny tax exemptions to non-profitable charitable or educational groups if they take the position that homosexuality is a normal, healthy, acceptable alternative lifestyle.* Thus, the only non-profit organization aimed at "helping" gay people that could get a tax exemption would be one that was anti-gay in ideology. Since the policy is not based on any statute but is merely a matter of interpretation on the part of prejudiced I.R.S. administrators, this form of discrimination can be immediately remedied by administrative action on the part of the I.R.S. Efforts to obtain such relief are, at this writing, under way.

CREDIT: Because of the prejudicial assumption that gays are somehow "less stable" than non-gays, open lesbians or gay men (or those who are closeted but suspected) often find it more difficult to secure credit for major purchases or expenditures (e.g., an automobile, house, or business), regardless of their past credit record and current financial situation. There is clearly a need here for legal guarantees of nondiscrimination.

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* For example, PRIDE Foundation of San Francisco was granted tax exempt status provided it did not advocate "homosexuality as a mere preference, orientation, or propensity which is on a par with heterosexuality or should otherwise be regarded as normal". Letter from E.D. Coleman, Chief, Exempt Organizations, Technical Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Washington D.C. July 31, 1975.

Similarly, a heterosexual married couple may co-sign loans, but a gay couple often may not, even if both partners are employed and have good individual credit records.

MILITARY SERVICE: Open lesbians and gay men are refused entry into this country's armed forces, and those discovered to be gay while in the service are invariably discharged, frequently with a "less-than-honorable" label that can be a barrier to employment or promotion for the rest of the person's life. * In order to keep the services "free" of the homosexual "taint", outrageous invasions of privacy and unconstitutional methods of intimidation are routinely used by military investigators. As with other forms of employment discrimination, which this is, the notion that lesbians and gay men cannot effectively and honorably serve in the military is based on falsehoods and myths that have no basis in fact.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION: The United States Immigration & Nationality Act provides that aliens who are "sexual deviates" shall be excluded from the United States.

The term "sexual deviates" is not defined anywhere in the statute, but the legislative history of the Immigration & Nationality Act indicates that Congress intended to exclude from the United States aliens who had engaged in homosexual conduct.

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* Among the cases that have come to public attention are the discharges of T. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich; A.F. Sgt. Skip Keith; PV 2 Debbie Watson; and P.F.C. Barbara Randolph.

Notwithstanding this prohibition, American Consuls abroad, with the approval of the Immigration & Naturalization Service, may grant waivers under Section 212(d)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for persons who are known to have engaged in homosexual conduct. Such waivers have frequently been granted for persons when the United States Government found that it was in the national interest for such persons to enter the United States to engage in specific public activity or for personal and humanitarian reasons.

No waivers may be granted to homosexual aliens who are entering the United States for permanent residence. Such persons are frequently identified by self-revelation resulting from specific questions on the applications for immigrant visas and for permanent residence or by arrest records which suggest homosexual solicitation.

Apart from the requirements relating to the admissibility of aliens to the United States, there is no statute which requires the deportation of an alien who is a homosexual, or, in terms, who has been arrested and convicted of homosexual conduct. However, aliens with such convictions have frequently been found to be deportable for having committed an offense involving moral turpitude. Whether a particular offense involves "moral turpitude" depends upon the precise language of the statute and the charge against the alien under the statute. A conviction of one offense within 5 years following admission to the United States will render the alien subject to deportation; a conviction of two offenses at any time will subject the alien to deportation.

The naturalization provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act also bear upon the rights of homosexual aliens. One of the requirements for naturalization is a showing that the applicant has been, for a period of 5 years, a person of "good moral character". A recent decision by a District Court in Portland, Oregon found that private consensual homosexual conduct did not preclude a finding of good moral character on the part of the applicant for naturalization. The Immigration & Naturalization Service has acquiesced in this decision and, absent any arrest record on the part of an applicant for naturalization, will not oppose the naturalization of a homosexual alien.

This policy, however, has not been applied to relax the exclusionary bars against homosexual aliens who are seeking to emigrate to the United States. Such aliens, if known to the American Counsul officials abroad, or to the Immigration & Naturalization Service, continue to be denied entry to the United States as lawful permanent residents.

PRISONERS: Lesbians sent to prison, for whatever reason, generally suffer a great deal. There is pervasive official discrimination against gay prisoners, in both State and Federal institutions, in job assignments, work release programs, educational opportunities, furlough and parole decisions, living conditions, and recreational facilities. Gay prisoners are not permitted to receive gay publications in the Federal prison system, on the grounds that having such publications will make them more of a "target" for abuse than they are already.* The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, Dignity, Integrity, and other gay religious groups often find it difficult or impossible to be recognized by prison authorities and allowed to give counseling, hold service, or dispense literature. Here again, while there are many things that may be done now to ameliorate the lot of lesbians and gay men in prison, their condition cannot ultimately be redeemed until homosexuality is accepted by society as a whole. When that happens there will be far fewer gays in prison at all, and the gay offenders who are justly sentenced will not be punished ten times over for their crimes.

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* Policy stated by Norman Carlson, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, in a letter to Representative Edward Koch, December 10, 1976.

SECURITY CLEARANCE: Another sub-category of employment discrimination involving government attitudes is the denial of security clearance. These must be approved by either the Defense or State Departments, and in the past they have routinely been denied to known gays (including those discovered to be gay only in the course of a security check). The rationale has been -- again! -- that gays are inherently "less stable" than heterosexually-oriented persons, and thus less trustworthy generally; regardless of an individual's prior record, there is the lurking fear that at any moment she or he may "go off the deep end." Government agencies have used the argument that gays, being engaged in usually illicit and in any case disreputable activities, are especially vulnerable to blackmail. The assumption that a lesbian would automatically prefer to betray her country than to come out of the closet has no factual basis. In any event an open gay person is no more vulnerable to blackmail than anyone else, so any gay who is denied a security clearance on that ground is in a very good position to win an appeal. If she or he is willing to take the government to court to protect this right, there can hardly be any "guilty secret" an enemy agent could exploit. In 1976, the Defense Department effectively revised its automatic practice of denying security clearance to open gays. Since that time, there have been almost no denials of security clearance to open gays.*

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* For example, Ron A. Kimberling received clearance from the Defense Department on November 12, 1976; Guy Van Alstyne received DoD clearance in June 1976; and Lyda Hersloff was cleared by ERDA in July 1975.

MEDIA: Lesbians and gay men very often "get it in the neck" from the media, both print and broadcast, and at present there is not a great deal one can do about it except protest and educate influential media people. The Federal Communications Commission does not require licensees to consult the gay community and take it into account in their programming (which is supposed to meet the needs of those living within the broadcast area). Gays sometimes succeed in getting on the air to "balance" an anti-gay spokesperson, but under present policies there is no requirement that the pro-gay position be presented.

CAMPUS GAY GROUPS: Campus lesbian and gay organizations must often struggle with an anti-gay administration for the right to hold meetings on school property, to advertise in the school newspaper or on the campus radio, and generally to be treated like any other legitimate student group. The legal situation at present is unclear, with several important cases decided for the gay group and at least one against; there is no national precedent binding on all the States.* Since campus groups are an important source of knowledge and energy for the gay liberation movement, as they were for the peace and the black civil rights movements, it is important for all gay people to support these struggles, whether they are personally concerned in them or not.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission has thus far refused to recognize discrimination against gay people as an appropriate subject for its investigations and recommendations

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* Gay student organizations' rights have been upheld in New Hampshire and Virginia. Gay Students Organization et. al. v. Bonner et. al. and Gay Students Organization et.al. v. Thompson, Appeals No. 74-1075 and 74-1076, First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, Dec. 1974; Gay Alliance of Students v. Matthews et. al. and Gay Alliance of Students v. Blanton et.al., Appeals No. 75-2359 and 75-2360, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Oct. 1975. Similar cases brought by gay students at the University of Kansas and Kentucky have been unsuccessful and are pending appeal.

(it has no other powers). The same is true of many of the various agencies, commissions, boards, and so on established around the country at the State and local levels to oversee the process of extending full civil rights to previously-discriminated-against minorities. What this means is that, for the public at large, gay civil rights is not yet perceived even as a problem. Lesbians are now roughly where blacks were when the NAACP was founded; before they can hope to achieve full citizenship, they must convince the heterosexual majority that they don't yet have it, and that they should have it.

Q. What is the status of laws which still restrict sexual behavior between consenting adults in private?

A. Under the Constitution, it is not possible for any State (or Congress) to make it illegal to be a lesbian, that is, to have a same sex orientation or preference. However, in March 1976 the U.S. Supreme Court, in a widely criticized decision, affirmed the right of States to prohibit certain sexual acts between persons of the same sex. Of course, the Supreme Court in no way said that State legislatures must pass, or retain, such laws, and even after that decision several more States joined the ranks of those having repealed their anti-gay "sodomy" statutes. By May 1977, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming "decriminalized" sexual activities between consenting adults in private. (See list on page 32 ). The tremendous publicity given to the Court's action brought the issue into the public's consciousness. Many of the country's major newspapers and virtually every civil rights organization came down strongly on the side of decriminalization, usually providing well-argued editorials or statements of support. For example:

The decision of the United States Supreme Court that in effect upheld the constitutionality of an ancient Virginia statute on private sexual practices was retrogressive enough; but it was made worse by the way in which the Court chose to reach that conclusion. Without hearing oral argument, without writing an opinion, the Court summarily affirmed the findings of a lower Federal court -- which was of course its legal right to do, but not its social obligation.

Given the importance of the question of personal privacy in the context of the period in which we live, the Supreme Court would have been more courageous and in fact socially -- if not legally -- more responsible had it done what three of the nine justices wanted it to do: refrain from passing on the case until the entire bench had heard argument on this important constitutional issue that simply will not go away.

The Virginia case itself rested on a statute nearly 200 years old prohibiting a variety of unconventional sexual acts, including some kinds of heterosexual activity. The issue in dispute, however, affected only homosexual relations between consenting adults in private.

The constitutional right to privacy had been steadily extended by the Supreme Court, until quite recently, under protection of what former Justice William O. Douglas called "the penumbra of the Bill of Rights." It is this doctrine that the present Court has so sharply restricted, disregarding the sage comment of a dissenting judge of the court below: "Every individual has a right to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into one's decisions on private matters of intimate concern."

"The Right of Privacy," The New York Times.
March 31, 1976

> . . .The real message the Justices have given is simply that those who believe -- as we do -- that individuals are entitled to greater protection in their private lives than they now have should seek it from the legislatures, not the courts.
>
> It seems to us, however, that there are some very serious flaws in the Court's developing approach to the privacy question. It is prepared, for example, to give a broader scope to the right of privacy when it is asserted by a married person or a parent than when it is asserted by unmarried persons. That was the thrust of the distinction drawn by the lower court in the Virginia case. It was careful to delineate between the privacy rights of married couples and those of homosexuals.
>
> "The Court and Privacy," The Washington Post. April 6, 1976
>
> It seems clear to us, as it seemed clear to the court in earlier rulings, that the state should not have the power to interfere in voluntary, private acts of individuals where no harm to others occurs. The application of that principle cannot be selective.
>
> "What Privacy?" Los Angeles Times. March 30, 1976

In most cases except in California, "sodomy" law reform has been achieved as part of a general State criminal law reform. Ever since the 1950's when the American Law Institute proposed its U.S. Model Penal Code, it has been accepted in enlightened legal circles that government really has no business trying to regulate the sexual activities in which adult citizens freely engage in private.

Unfortunately, here as elsewhere, a double standard often prevails. Legislators willing to sanction any consensual sexual practices between heterosexual married couples may not be so tolerant of unmarried ones, and still less of gays.

Q. Exactly how many lesbians and gay men are there in this country?

A. A March 18, 1977 letter from Paul H. Gebhard, Director of the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research, addressed to the National Gay Task Force states:

It is quite evident that when one speaks of homosexuality one is talking about something which involves millions, not thousands, of U.S. citizens, and that homosexuality is a phenomenon which, with only slight variations, appears to cross all geographic, ethnic and socioeconomic barriers in this country.

There have been no studies to indicate how many U.S. citizens are self-described as homosexual. Existing statistical material has measured sexual activity or response rather than willingness to engage in loving relationships with members of the same sex. Most of the research is more than 15 years old, and various methodological and sampling defects plague all sex research. Nonetheless we believe that the interview data collected by Dr. Kinsey and the Institute staff between 1938 and 1963 leads inescapably to the above conclusion.

The Institute studies published in 1948 and 1953 indicated that 37% of the male and 20% of the female population had some form of overt homosexual experience after puberty and that only 63% of males and 80% of females were exclusively heterosexual up to the time they were interviewed. Although these figures have remained remarkably constant in subsequent research and reworking of the data, I wish to point out that our samples had an undue proportion of people of

college age. If the average age of our samples were in the forties, the figures for homosexual experience might well be higher by several percentage points. I also believe that if the same research were conducted today, the percentages would be significantly higher by virtue of the increased sexual experimentation connected with the so-called "sexual revolution."

In the 1948 and 1953 studies, it was stated that 13% of the male and 7% of the female population had more homosexual than heterosexual experience or psychological response for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55, for a combined percentage of 10% for the total population. These figures have been criticized for including psychological response along with overt experience. However, I have been recently reworking the 1938 to 1963 data to include only "experience" (defined as deliberate physical contact intended by at least one of the participants to produce sexual arousal).

Tabulations based on these criteria indicate that 13.95 of males and 4.25% of females, or a combined average of 9.13% of the total population had either extensive (21 or more partners or 51 or more experiences) or more than incidental (5-20 partners or 21-50 experiences) homosexual experience. I wish to point out that although the Institute did interview members of homosexual groups and organizations as part of its research, all such persons were excluded from the above tabulation.

I believe that however this data is interpreted, one can only conclude that a significant percentage of the American population is predominately homosexual in its sexual and affectional orientation.

Q. Are there any laws which now protect lesbians?

A. Laws have been passed in about 40 cities and municipalities around the country (see attached list). They range from small college towns like Alfred, NY Chapel Hill, NC and Youngstown, OH to major cities like Detroit, Washington D.C., Minneapolis, and Boston. This legislation is usually enforced by the City Human Rights Commission or its equivalent.

There is a Federal gay rights bill before Congress, though at this writing it has not yet been voted out of committee. Former Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduced a bill amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and other areas on the basis of affectional or sexual preference. The current principal sponsor is Representative Edward Koch (D-NY). There are thirty-nine co-sponsors. Passage of this bill would create nationwide civil rights protection for gays, just as a U.S. Supreme Court ruling against State "sodomy" laws would have done in terms of decriminalization; in so doing, it would save an enormous amount of time and effort. On the other hand, passage of a Federal bill would not make State and local gay rights laws completely superfluous, since the latter would bring with them additional resources for enforcement. (The House bill would put the burden of enforcement on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for employment discrimination, and the appropriate Cabinet departments -- e.g., Housing and Urban Affairs -- in the other areas.)

On the Senate side of Congress, Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) will shortly introduce a bill prohibiting anti-gay discrimination in employment. It provides for enforcement through the courts, with the Justice Department empowered to initiate suits. Hearings of these bills are planned which will focus attention on the issues and permit airing of pro-gay arguments and myth-shattering facts.

## GAY RIGHTS PROTECTIONS IN THE U.S.

| DATE ENACTED | MUNICIPALITY | CONDITIONS/RESTRICTIONS |
|---|---|---|
| 1972 | Atlanta, GA | Municipal employment/ Executive Order |
| 2/72 | San Francisco, CA | Admin. code; Munic. employm. |
| 2/72 | New York, NY | Munic. employm./ Exec. Order |
| 3/72 | East Lansing, MI | |
| 7/72 | Ann Arbor, MI | |
| 11/73 | Washington, D.C. | |
| 11/73 | Seattle, WA | |
| 11/73 | Berkeley, CA | |
| 11/73 | Detroit, MI | Incl. in new city charter |
| 1/74 | Columbus, Ohio | Housing & public accomm. |
| 3/74 | Minneapolis, MN | |
| 5/74 | Alfred, NY | |
| 7/74 | St. Paul, MN | |
| 8/74 | Palo Alto, CA | |
| 9/74 | Ithaca, NY | Municipal employment |
| 10/74 | Sunnyvale, CA | Municipal employment |
| 11/74 | San Jose, CA | |
| 12/74 | Portland, Oregon | |
| 2/75 | Mountain View, CA | Municipal employment |
| 2/75 | Cupertino, CA | Municipal employment |
| 3/75 | Madison, WI | |
| 4/75 | Marshall, MN | |
| 7/75 | Yellow Springs, OH | |
| 7/75 | Austin, Texas | |
| 8/75 | Santa Barbara, CA | Municipal employment |
| 9/75 | Chapel Hill, NC | Municipal employment |
| 11/75 | Bloomington, IN | |
| 11/75 | Urbana, Illinois | Credit, Employment, Public Accommodations |
| 1/76 | Cleveland Hgts.,OH | |
| 4/76 | Boston, MA | Munic. employm./Exec. Order |
| 4/76 | Pullman, WA | Municipal employment |
| 5/76 | Amherst, MA | |
| 5/76 | Los Angeles, CA | Municipal employment |
| 1/77 | Tucson, Arizona | |
| | COUNTY | |
| 7/75 | Santa Cruz County, CA | |
| 11/75 | Howard County, MD | |
| 11/75 | Hennepin County, MN | |
| 1/77 | Dade County, FL | |
| | STATE | |
| 4/76 | Pennsylvania | State employm./ Exec. Order |

Q. What are some of the organizations that have supported gay rights?

A. Such organizations include: the American Bar Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Civil Service Commission, the National Council of the Churches of Christ, and the National Federation of Priests' Councils. Some samples of statements follow.

> Resolved, That the legislatures of the several states are urged to repeal all laws which classify as criminal conduct any form of non-commercial sexual conduct between consenting adults in private, saving only those portions which protect minors or public decorum.

Adopted by the American Bar Association's House of Delegates at its 1973 Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. August 6-8.

Whereas homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities, therefore, be it resolved that the American Psychiatric Association deplores all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, and licensing and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other persons. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state, and federal level that would offer homosexual citizens the same protections now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color, etc. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the repeal of all discriminatory legislation singling out homosexual acts by consenting adults in private.

Resolution adopted by the Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association, Washington D.C., Dec. 15, 1974

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers protests any personnel actions taken against any teacher merely because he or she practices homosexual behavior in private life.

Adopted by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers in 1970

The Governing Board urges its member churches and their constituencies to work to ensure the enactment of legislation at the National, state and local levels that would guarantee the civil rights of all persons without regard to their affectional or sexual preferences.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, March 6, 1975

Q. What corporations support Gay Rights?

A. Among others, International Business Machines, Bank of America, Citicorp, and American Telephone and Telegraph have non-discriminatory employment policies. Some of their statements follow.

> IBM does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in either hiring or in the advancement of its employees. Our long standing belief, which we continue to support, has been that an employee's off the job behavior is not a concern to the company unless it is detrimental to work performance expected of all employees.

letter dated March 5, 1975 from Jerry G. Anderson, Director of Employment, IBM, to National Gay Task Force

> Please be advised that it is not now nor has it ever been the policy or practice of this Bank to discriminate in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. The Bank of America looks for competence in the performance of its employes, and does not concern itself with or make decisions based upon their private lifestyles. Further, this Bank respects the rights of privacy of both applicants and employes by not making inquiries or assumptions as to private lifestyles.

letter dated March 6, 1975 from William J.A. Weir, Vice President, Bank of America, to National Gay Task Force

> Citicorp has long believed that employment decisions should be made on the basis of job qualification and suitability to perform the particular job and not on the basis of non-job related characteristics such as race, sex, religion, national origin or age. We view sexual orientation as a non-job related characteristic and thus do not make employment decisions based on this attribute.

letter dated March 11, 1975 from Lawrence M. Small. Sr. Vice President, Citicorp to National Gay Task Force

> An individual's sexual preferences are not criteria either for becoming an employee or remaining an employee of the Bell System. Job retention and promotability are based upon demonstrable job performance and behavior. An individual's sexual tendencies or preferences are strictly personal and information about these matters should not be sought out by company personnel.

letter dated March 4, 1975 from John D. deButts, Chairman of the Board, A.T.& T. to National Gay Task Force

Q. Do lesbians and gay men really make good parents?

A. Absolutely. The most important thing a child can get from his/her parents is love. A person's sexual preference has nothing to do with how much or how little care and concern is shown for a child. Lesbianism, per se, should never be a criterion for judging someone unfit as a mother. A number of experts, including Dr. Benjamin Spock, agree.

> The ability of fathers or mothers to care for children in a responsible, loving, devoted way (most conducive to the healthy development of the children) should be evaluated by the same criteria for homosexuals and heterosexuals alike to determine custody. Sexual orientation in and of itself indicates nothing about attributes of personality or character, such as integrity, reliability, responsibility, or devotion to, and ability to care for children.
>
> Evelyn Hooker, Ph.D., Clinical Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, U. of California, letter dated June 28, 1973 to Bruce Voellner of the National Gay Task Force

[T]he problem is not with the relationship between predominantly homosexual parents and their children, but with a society which has misunderstood and denied human sexuality and most particularly that of persons whose orientation differs from the majority's.

I know of no scientific evidence that the children of predominantly homosexual parents are any more or less likely to become homosexually oriented than those of heterosexuals, just as I know of no evidence that predominantly heterosexual parents are more loving, supportive, or stable in their parental role than homosexual women and men.

Thus, in divorce cases, a child's wellbeing is best served by weighing all of the human qualities of the two parents. Sexual orientation alone should not be the grounds for a decision about custody and visitation rights. Homosexual men and women should be individually evaluated on their total human qualities and not discriminated against stereotypically on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Judd Marmor, M.D., Dept. of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, U. of Southern California, letter to Bruce Voellner dated May 1973.

Society's apprehensions notwithstanding, it is not inevitably psychically dangerous for children, boys or girls, to live with a divorced parent who sets up a new household with a partner of the same sex. Children are rather readily able to equate such a situation with that of living with a widowed mother and her sister, or a father and grandfather, for example. It is not the sameness or difference of the sex of the adults that counts, but the quality of the relationship between them, and the quality of the relationship they establish with the child.

John Money, Ph.D., Professor of Medical Psychology and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins U. School of Medicine, letter to Bruce Voellner dated June 6, 1973.

Questions about parental visitation rights and child custody should not be decided, I believe, on the basis of a parent's sexual orientation. They should be decided on such bases as the parent's devotion to his child, his sensibleness in managing the child, evidence of his child's love of him, his general ethical standards.

I know of no evidence that homosexual parents are more apt to raise homosexual children. Most homosexuals are the children of conventionally heterosexual parents.

letter dated June 19, 1973 from Benjamin Spock, M.D. to Bruce Voellner

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

# WORKSHOP GUIDELINE ON

## SEXUAL PREFERENCE

The purpose of this booklet is to provide resources and offer guidelines for organizing a workshop on sexual preference -- specifically lesbianism.

Included are:

- an overview of lesbianism as a women's issue
- a fact sheet containing specific information about lesbianism*
- a bibliography
- a list of lesbian organizations by State
- a list of lesbian community services centers
- a list of organizations supporting lesbian rights
- Ms. Magazine's "Petition for Sanity."

The following goals are suggested:

1) To provide an overview of issues lesbians face in a decidedly anti-homosexual society.

2) To discuss ways of obtaining protective legislation and eliminating existing laws which discriminate against lesbians.

3) To recommend means for eliminating the myths about lesbians and educating the public to the extent of discrimination which exists.

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* The State Coordinating Committee may put its heading or the heading of the National Commission at the top of the first page of the fact sheet. Additional State-related material may be added to the fact sheet if desired.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in employment, education, housing, etc. is non-existent on the State and Federal levels, and in most cities. Thirty-two States* still have laws on the books which restrict private sexual behavior between consenting adults and are selectively enforced against gay people. Although the climate is changing, attitudes of legislators, the media, prosecutors, judges, even families and friends reflect the myths rather than the reality of lesbianism.

Following are some program suggestions from which selection can be made, depending on the situation in your State:

1) Make clear that the workshop is open to all those who are interested in the lesbian issue. Part of the workshop should be devoted to a dialogue between lesbians and non-lesbians for a greater understanding of how they can help each other. It would be helpful to include in initial presentations heterosexual women who understand and support the issue. A climate should definitely be created so that lesbians who are not "open about their lifestyle" will feel comfortable in attending.

2) Strategies for passing positive legislation and eliminating laws which criminalize private sexual behavior can be facilitated by inviting a supportive legislator and/or a lobbyist who has worked on other issues. If attempts have been made to pass legislation in your State, lesbians who have been involved in this effort should relate their experiences and the current status of the bills. People from local A.C.L.U. chapters and civil rights commissions can also be useful.

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* Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin.

3) It is a good idea to point out specific examples of discrimination in employment, housing, child custody, etc. This serves to educate those who are unfamiliar with the issue, and provides concrete details supporting legislative reform.

4) Special invitations or requests to attend the workshop should be extended to people who could be helpful with the issue; i.e., legislators, civil rights representatives, media people, etc.

5) Plans could be made to elicit written support statements from local organizations and businesses. These strengthen media appearances.

6) Included in this booklet is Ms. Magazine's "Petition for Sanity." Copies could be made and signatures obtained from conference attendees.

7) Written materials such as sample bills are available from the National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011. So are media strategies for city and Statewide levels and a great variety of sample child custody cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MIGHT CONSIDER

Your workshop might consider the following recommendations:

1) The passage of Federal, State and local legislation that would eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference in areas such as employment, housing, public accommodation and credit.

2) The reform of State penal codes, or the repeal of State laws which restrict sexual behavior between consenting adults in private.

3) The passage of State legislation protecting the rights of gay parents with respect to custody and visitation of their children.

4) Inclusion of more lesbian visibility in media broadcasts and development of more public information and

awareness programs by the public broadcasting company with lesbian input in order to dispel the myths surrounding lesbianism and educate the public to the facts.

Prepared by Jean O'Leary, May 1977.

# SPEAKERS

For speakers in favor of Gay Rights contact:

The National Gay Task Force
80 Fifth Avenue, Room 506
New York, New York 10011
212-741-1010

Speakers are available on every aspect of lesbian and gay issues including:

- Lesbian feminist issues
- Coming Out
- Legislation
- Litigation
- Media
- Parents
- Psychiatry
- State of the Gay Movement

Or contact your local lesbian feminist organization (see Organizations list).

For speakers against Gay Rights contact:

Dr. Irving Bieber
132 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

Police Chief Edward Davis
Parker Center
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dr. Socarides
61 East 80th Street
New York, New York

# ORGANIZATIONS

## ALASKA

Alaska Women's Resource Center
Box 188
Anchorage, AK 99501

## ARIZONA

Lesbian Task Force/NOW
P.O. Box 11344
Phoenix, AZ 85061
602-966-0039
255-0154

The Women's Center
1430 South McAllister
Tempe, AZ 85281
602-968-0743

Tucson Center for Women
646 South 6th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701
602-286-8856

## ARKANSAS

Razordykes
University of Arkansas
Association of Lesbians
c/o Women's Center
207 Razorback
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Switchboard
415 West 20th Street
P.O. Box 483
Little Rock, AR 72213

## CALIFORNIA

Berkeley Women's Center
2112 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA

Gay American Indians
P.O. Box 2194
So. San Francisco, CA 94080
415-431-2553

Lesbian and Sexuality Task Force
420 North Van Ness
Fresno, CA 93721
209-233-2384

Lesbian Feminist Alliance
170 South 10th Street
Box 19, San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95117

Lesbian Resource Program
1213 North Highland Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90007

Sacramento Women's Center

1230 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

So. Cal. Women for Whit-Radcliffe
13033 Ventura Boulevard
Studio City, CA 91604

The Women's Building
1727 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Organizations

COLORADO

Lesbian Caucus/UMC 181
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309
303-492-7735

NOW Lesbian Task Force
1400 Lafayette
Denver, CO 80218
303-831-7707

CONNECTICUT

Yalesbians
Room B018, Bingham Hall
Old Campus Yale U.
2031 Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06510

DELAWARE

Delaware Separatist Dyke Group
Box 3526
Greenville, DE 19807
302-478-1246

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gay Switchboard of D.C.
1724 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
202-387-3777

Washington Area Women's Ctr.
17th & M Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-347-5078

FLORIDA

Dade County Lesbian Task Force
1431 N.W. 43rd Street
Miami, FL 33142
305-672-5133

Florida Coalition of Gay Organizations
P.O. Box 2423
Clearwater, FL 33517

Florida State University Women's Center
Florida State U. Box 6826
Tallahassee, FL 32306
904-644-4007

Gay Community Services of South Florida
P.O. Box 721
Coconut Grove Station
Miami, FL 33133
305-445-3511

Lesbian Task Force
210 Fifth Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Lesbian Task Force of Jacksonville Women's Movement
P.O. Box 10551
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Parents of Gays
P.O. Box 4479
Pensacola, FL 32507

Organizations

GEORGIA

Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance
1326 McLendon Street
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-532-7786

HAWAII

Love and Peace Together
Box 3224
Honolulu, HI 96801
808-524-4699

IDAHO

N.W. Gay People's Alliance
P.O. Box 8758
Moscow, ID 83843

Women's Center --
University of Idaho
Administration Center
Building 109
Moscow, ID 83843

ILLINOIS

Gay Illini
284 Illini Union
Urbana, IL 61801
217-384-8040

Lesbian Feminist Center
3523 North Halsted
Chicago, IL 60657
312-935-4250

INDIANA

Everywoman's Center
1018 South Laurel Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Gay People's Union of Central Indiana
146 East 19th St., #12
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Purdue Gay Alliance
P.O. Box 510
Purdue Memorial Union
West Lafayette, IN 47907

IOWA

Iowa City Lesbian Alliance
3 East Market Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
319-353-6265

KANSAS

Wichita Gay Community?Assn.
P.O. Box 13013
Wichita, KS 67213
316-942-6619

Women's Coalition
Kansas Union 104B
Lawrence, KS 66045
913-864-4934

KENTUCKY

Daughters of Bilitis
416 Belgravia Court
Louisville, KY 40208
502-635-5841

Organizations

KENTUCKY, continued

MCC
156 South Liniestorce
Lexington, KY 40507

LOUISIANA

Daughters of Bilitis
Box 52113
New Orleans, LA 70152

Metropolitan Community
Church
1934 Burgundy
New Orleans, LA 70117

MAINE

Maine Gay Task Force
193 Middle Street
Portland, ME 04111
207-773-5530

Maine Lesbian Feminists
P.O. Box 125
Belfast, ME 04915

South Maine Lesbian Caucus
c/o Johnson-Breeding
205 Spring St., #5
Portland, ME 04102

MARYLAND

Lesbian Community Center
3028 Greenmount Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21218
301-235-8593

MARYLAND, continued

Women's Growth Center
1110 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
301-539-3588

MASSACHUSETTS

Daughters of Bilitis
419 Boylston St., Rm. 323
Boston, MA 02116
617-262-1592

Everywoman's Resource Center
P.O. Box 949
Provincetown, MA 07657
617-487-3075, 3344

Lesbian Mothers
c/o Women's Educational Ctr.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Lesbian Union
C.C. 901, University of Mass.
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-3438

MICHIGAN

Amazon Union
c/o Gay Women's Advocate Office
326 Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
313-763-4186

Lambda of Kalamazoo
P.O. Box 2213
Kalamazoo, MI 49003
616-344-7629

MINNESOTA

Lesbian Resource Center
2104 Stevens Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-871-2601

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Gay Alliance
P.O. Box 8342
Jackson, MS 39204
601-353-6447, 372-3449

MISSOURI

Midcontinent Life Services Center
4940 McPherson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108

MCC of Greater St. Louis
5108 Waterman Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-7284

MONTANA

Lambda
770 Eddy, Room 4
Missoula, MT 59801

NEBRASKA

MCC
803 North 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
402-345-2563

Women's Resource Center
Rm. 126, Nebraska Union
1400 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68588
402-472-2597

NEVADA

The Ladder (Reno Daughters of Bilitis)
P.O. Box 5025
Washington Station
Reno, NV 89503

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lesbian Support Group
University of New Hampshire
Women's Center
Durham, NH 03824

New Hampshire Lambda
P.O. Box 1043
Concord, NH 03301

Seacoast Gay Alliance
P.O. Box 1424
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-436-7196

NEW JERSEY

Gay Activists Alliance of New Jersey
Box 1734
South Hackensack, NJ 07606
201-343-6402

Rutgers University Coalition of Lesbian-Feminists
c/o Women's Center
Tillett Hall
Livingston College
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
201-932-4678

United Sisters
Box 41
Garwood, NJ 07027
201-233-3848

NEW MEXICO

Women's Center
1824 Las Lomas, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM
505-277-3716

NEW YORK

Gay Women's Alternative
Universalist Church
76th and Central Park West
New York, NY

Lesbian Feminist Liberation
243 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011
212-691-5460

Lesbian Resource Center
713 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
716-244-9030

Sisters of Sappho
Gay Community Center
1350 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-881-5335

NORTH CAROLINA

Drastic Dykes
P.O. Box 3302
Charlotte, NC 28203

Triangle Area Lesbian
Feminists
P.O. Box 2272
Durham, NC 27702

OHIO

Central Ohio Lesbians
P.O. Box 8393
Columbus, OH 43201
614-291-9114

Dayton Lesbian Feminist League
1938 Rugby Road
Dayton, OH 45406
513-275-3606

OKLAHOMA

Christ the King MCC
401 S.E. 22nd Street
Oklahoma City, IK 73129

Tulsa Gay Community Caucus
P.O. Box 2792
Tulsa, OK 74101

OREGON

Lesbian Rap Group
c/o Women's Center
2nd and Washington
Eugene, OR 97401

Women's Place & Resource Ctr.
1915 N.E. Everett
Portland, OR 97232
503-234-7044

PENNSYLVANIA

Amazons, Inc.
P.O. Box 18521
Philadelphia, PA 19129

PENNSYLVANIA, continued

Gay Women's Alternative
c/o Giovanni's Room
1426 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Lesbian Feminists
c/o Persad Center
5100 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Philadelphia Women's Center
2027 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RHODE ISLAND

Gay Women of Providence

Providence, RI
401-831-5184

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston Gay Task Force
P.O. Box 701
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Metropolitan Commun Church
P.O. Box 11181
Columbia, SC 29211

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills Gay Coalition
P.O. Box 8034
Rapid City, SD 57701

TENNESSEE

Gay Switchboard
Box 3620
Memphis, TN 38103

TEXAS

Austin Lesbian Feminist
Organization
P.O. Box 3301
Austin, TX 78764

Task Force on Lesbianism
c/o Dallas County NOW
P.O. Box 12431
Dallas, TX 75225

UTAH

Women Aware
Box 25532
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

VERMONT

Gay People at Middlebury
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753

Lesbian Defense Fund
P.O. Box 4
Essex Junction, VT 05452

University of Vermont
Gay Student Union
Billings Center
Burlington, VT 05401

VIRGINIA

Virginia Lesbian/Feminist
Group
P.O. Box 11103
Norfolk, VA 23517

WASHINGTON

Lesbian Mothers National
Defense Fund
2446 Lorentz Place North
Seattle, WA 98109
206-272-5798

Lesbian Resource Center
4224 University Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
206-632-4747

WEST VIRGINIA

G.R.O.U.P.
c/o Jay Wickart
P.O. Box 629
Charleston, WV 25322

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley Gay Alliance
P.O. Box 332
Menasha, WI 54952
414-233-2948

Lesbian Switchboard
306 North Brooks
Madison, WI 53715
608-257-7378

## GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Such community service groups as those included in this sample listing provide numerous services including counseling, health and VD care, switchboards, social functions, drug and alcohol abuse programs, etc. Please check with each organization for specifics regarding programs and activities.

GAY CENTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
2250 B Street
San Diego, California 92102
714-232-7528
Hours: Daily 10am - 10pm

LAMBDA SERVICES BUREAU, INC.
P.O. Box 911
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
303-475-8409

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 3224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
Street address:
2457 Kanealii Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-521-4551
Hours: 7:30am - 4:30pm

ROGERS PARK GAY CENTER
7109 North Glenwood
Chicago, Illinois 60626
312-262-0587
Hours: Daily 7pm - 10pm

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES
P.O. Box 3589
Upper Nicollet Station
Minneapolis, Minn. 55403
612-871-3111
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7-10pm

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES INC. OF KANSAS CITY
P.O. Box 703
Kansas City, Missouri 64141
Gay Talk: 816-921-4419
Phone Hours: Thu, Fri, Sat 8pm - 3am

CAPITOL DISTRICT GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
332 Hudson Avenue
Albany, NY 11210
518-462-6138
Hours: Daily 7-11pm

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN IDENTITY
490 West End Ave., Suite 3B
New York, NY 10024
212-799-9432
Hours: 9-9 Mon-Thu; 9-5
9-5 Fri-Sat

EROMIN CENTER, INC.
1725 Naudin Street
Philadelphia, Penna. 19146
215-732-3212
Hours: Mon-Thu 10am - 10pm
Fri 10am - 6pm

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES
2330 Guadalupe, Room 7
Austin, Texas 78705
512-477-6699
Hours: Mon-Sat 4 - 10pm

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
110 Boylston Avenue East
Seattle, Washington 98102
206-322-2000
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-10pm
Sat 1-5pm

The listings of resource individuals and organizations included in this handbook is by no means a complete list; it is only intended to represent a portion of those groups working with the gay community. Available from the National Gay Task Force are two additional listings: a lesbian/feminist group list (free of charge -- please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope when requesting this list) and the "Gay Community Services Directory and Source Book" ($2). Their address: NGTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, Room 506, New York, New York 10011. Another listing of gay organizations and groups is included in the national edition of the Gayellow Pages ($5) from Renaissance House, Box 292, Village Station, New York, New York 10014.

Many campuses as well as local chapters of the National Organization for Women and the American Civil Liberties Union also have active lesbian and gay oriented groups or projects. Please check your local or State colleges and universities and any local or State chapters of NOW or ACLU for other resource individuals, organizations and information.

# PUBLICATIONS

This bibliography contains listings of books, articles, pamphlets, periodicals, and audio visual materials. It is by no means a complete listing of the available resources in each category. A more complete listing is available from the National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011 or from the Task Force on Gay Liberation, American Library Association, Box 2383, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 for 25¢. That listing is updated each summer and also contains a section listing additional bibliographies and directories on specific topics.

## BOOKS

Amazon Expedition: A Lesbian-Feminist Anthology. Times Change Press, 1972, paper orig.

Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives: The Story of Homosexual Men in America Today, by Howard Brown. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, October 1976.

From the Closet to the Courts: The Lesbian Transition, by Ruth Simpson. Viking, November 1975.

The Gay Academic, edited by Louie Crew. ETC Publications, January 1977.

The Gay Crusaders, by Kay Tobin and Randy Wicker. Paperback Library, 1972, paper orig., illus. (out of print). Reprint 1975 by Arno Press.

The Gay Militants, by Donn Teal. Stein & Day, 1971 (out of print).

The Gay Mystique: The Myth and Reality of Male Homosexuality, by Peter Fisher. Stein & Day, 1972, cloth and paper editions.

Great Gay in the Morning: One Group's Approach to Communal Living and Sexual Politics, by 25 to 6 Baking & Trucking Society. Times Change Press, 1972, illus.

The Homosexual Matrix, by C.A. Tripp. McGraw-Hill, 1975.

Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition, by Derrick S. Bailey. Longmans Green, 1955 (out of print). Reprint 1975 by Archon--Shoe String Press.

Lesbian Images, by Jane Rule. Doubleday, 1975.

The Lesbian Myth: Insights and Conversations, by Bettie Wysor. Random House, 1974.

The Lesbian Reader: An Amazon Quarterly Anthology, ed. by Gina Covina and Laurel Galana. Amazon Press, November 1975, paper orig., illus. (Amazon Press, 395 60th Street, Oakland, CA 94618, $4.50 prepaid, discount to bookstores.)

Lesbianism and the Women's Movement, by Charlotte Bunch and Nancy Myron. Diana Press, 1975, paper orig.

Lesbians Speak Out, by Women's Press Collective. Women's Press Collective, 1974, paper orig., illus. (Women's Press, 5251 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94618, $3 prepaid, discount to bookstores.)

Male Homosexuals: Their Problems and Adaptations, by Martin S. Weinberg and Colin J. Williams. Oxford University Press, 1974. Also Penguin paper edition.

The Rights of Gay People (An American Civil Liberties Union Handbook), by E. Carrington Boggan et al. Avon, 1975, paper orig.

Sappho was a Right-On Woman: A Liberated View of Lesbianism, by Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love. Stein & Day, 1972, cloth and paper editions.

Sex Variant Women in Literature: A Historical and Quantitative Survey, by Jeannette H. Foster. Vantage Press, 1956 (out of print). Reprint late 1975 by Diana Press, with Afterword by Gene Damon.

Sexual Freedom and the Constitution, by Walter Barnett. University of New Mexico Press, 1973.

Society and the Healthy Homosexual, by George Weinberg. St. Martins, 1972. Also Anchor--Doubleday paper ed.

ARTICLES

"The Avowed Lesbian Mother and her Right to Child Custody: A Constitutional Challenge that can No Longer be Denied." San Diego Law Review 12:799-864 (July 1975). (San Diego Law Review, University of San Diego School of Law, Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110, issue $3.)

"Can Young Gays Find Happiness in in YA Books?" by Frances Hanckel and John Cunningham. Wilson Library Bulletin, March 1976, 528-534. (Article reprint 50¢ prepaid from ALA/SRRT Task Force on Gay Liberation, Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)

"Custody Rights of Lesbian Mothers: Legal Theory and Litigation Strategy," by Nan Hunter and Nancy Polikoff. Buffalo Law Review, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Spring 1976). (Article reprint 85¢ prepaid from Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Place North, Seattle, WA 98109.)

"Gays in the Synagogue," by Elenore Lester. Present Tense: The Magazine of World Jewish Affairs, Autumn 1974. (Present Tense, 165 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022, issue $2.)

"Homophobia in Library School," by Bianca Guttag. In: Revolting Librarians, ed. by Celeste West and Elizabeth Katz, Booklegger Press, 1972. (Book $2 prepaid from Booklegger Press, 555 29th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.)

"Homosexual Behavior," by Clellan Ford and Frank Beach. In their: Patterns of Sexual Behavior, Harper & Row, 1951.

"Homosexual Doctors: Their Place and Influence in Medicine Today." Medical World News, Jan. 25, 1974, 41-51. (Available at most medical libraries.)

"Homosexual Parents," by Carole Klein. In her: The Single Parent Experience, Walker, 1973, also Avon paper edition.

"Homosexuality," by Eda J. LeShan. In her: Natural Parenthood: Raising Your Child Without a Script, Signet, 1970.

"Homosexuality and Cultural Value Systems, by Judd Marmore. American Journal of Psychiatry 130: 1208-1209 (Nov. 1973).

"Homosexuality -- Being "Gay," by Eric W. Johnson. In his: Love and Sex in Plain Language (new revised edition), Lippincott, 1974, also Bantam paper edition (Grades 7-12).

"Homosexuals May Be Healthier than Straights," by Mark Freedman. Psychology Today, March 1975. (Psychology Today Readers Service, Att: Pam Ludwig, Box 700, Del Mar, CA 92014, article 50¢.)

"Learning from Lesbian Separatism," by Charlotte Bunch. Ms. Magazine, November 1976.

"Legal Rights and Responsibilities of Homosexuals in Public Education, by Michael W. LaMorte. Journal of Law and Education 4:449-467 (July 1975).

"The Lesbian and God the Father," "Gay, Proud and Christian," "No Smog in Irvine," "God's Gays." Connexion, May 1973. (Published by United Ministries in Higher Education; available at many local United Campus Ministry offices.)

"Lesbian Mothers I" and "Lesbian Mothers II", by R.A. Basile. Women's Rights Law Reporter, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Dec. 1974) and Vol. 3, No. 1 (Sept. 1975). (Women's Rights Law Reporter, 180 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102, each $3.50, reprint of both articles available October 1975, reprint price to be set.)

"Lesbians: The Door's Open," by Cynthia Secor. Change, Feb. 1975, 13-17. Also in" Women on Campus: The Unfinished Liberation, from the editors of Change, 1975. (Change, NBW Tower, New Rochelle, NY 10801, book $3.50.)

"Parents Who Are Gay," by Dolores Klaich. New Times, July 23, 1976, 34-42.

"The Realities of Lesbianism," by Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. The New Women: A Motive Anthology of Women's Liberation, ed. by Joanne Cooke et al., Bobbs-Merrill, 1970, also Fawcett Premier paper edition. Also in: Lesbians Speak Out, by Women's Press Collective, Women's Press, 1974.

## PAMPHLETS

De-Mystifying "The Lavender Menace," a NOW Primer on Lesbian Baiting. Prepared by Kay Whitlock, NOW National Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism, April 1977.

Packet of Resolutions and Statements Re: Homosexuality. National Gay Task Force. (80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011, $2 prepaid.) Includes: American Anthropological Assn., American Bar Assn., American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Library Assn., American Psychiatric Assn., American Psychological Assn., California Federation of Teachers, National Council of Churches, National Education Assn., National Federation of Priests Councils (Roman Catholic), National Organization for Women, U.S. Civil Service Commission, Washington (D.C.) Board of Education, etc.

Policy Statement on Homosexuality. American Civil Liberties Union, April 13, 1975. (ACLU, 22 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, free for stamped reply envelope.)

Press Release on New Guidelines for Federal Employment. United States Civil Service Commission, July 3, 1975. (Copies for 25¢ from National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.) Includes major policy change to require judging homosexual and heterosexual conduct by the same standard.

A Resolution on Civil Rights Without Discrimination As To Affectional or Sexual Preference. National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, March 6, 1975. (National Council of Churches, Room 711, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027, single copy free for stamped reply envelope, bulk orders by arrangement.)

Resolutions on Homosexuality. American Psychiatric Association, Dec. 15, 1973. (Press release and rationale paper available free from APA Division of Public Affairs, 1700 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.)

Sinister Wisdom. Special issue on Lesbian Writing and Publishing, Vol. I, #2, $2.50 from Sinister Widsom, 3116 Country Club Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Workforce: Gay Workers Out of the Closet. Gay issue of Workforce, Sept.-Oct. 1974. (Vocations for Social Change, 5951 Canning, Oakland, CA 94609, 85¢ prepaid, bulk discount available.)

## PERIODICALS

Code for subscription rates: X - individual; L - libraries and institutions; G - gay and lesbian-feminist organizations; P - prisoners and State-hospital patients.

The Advocate. National newsmagazine, 2121 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403. Biweekly. All USA subs, $9 1 yr., $16 2 yrs.; Canada and Mexico, $10 1 yr., $18 2 yrs. Sample, 50¢. Microfilm ed. from Univ. of So. California Library.

Alfa Newsletter. Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, Box 7684, Atlanta, GA 30309. Monthly. X, $2, free with $5 membership in Alfa; L, $5; G, exchange; P (women), free. Sample, two 10¢ stamps.

The Barb. Serving the Southeast. Box 7922, Atlanta, GA 30309. Monthly. X, $4; L & G, same, limited quantities available for free distribution; also G, exchange; P, free. Sample 25¢.

Dignity. National publication of the gay Catholic community. 755 Boylston Street, Room 514, Boston, MA 02116. Monthly. X, $15; L, $25; G, $15 or exchange; P, free. Sample, free.

Fag Rag. Gay male quarterly. Box 331, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02115. Quarterly. X & L, 12 issues, $7; G, exchange; P and military, free; foreign, 12 issues $7 seamail, $12 airmail. Sample 50¢. Microfilm ed. from University Microfilms.

GPU News. National news and features for gay women and men. Box 90530, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Monthly. X, L, & G, $5; P, free; Canada, $7.50; Europe, $8.50. Sample, $1.

The Gay Blade. Serving Greater Washington, D.C. 1724 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Monthly. All USA subs, $5; foreign, $10. Sample 50¢.

Gay Community News (GCN). Gay weekly for the Northeast. 22 Bromfield, Boston, MA 02108. Weekly. X, L & G, 10 wks. $2.50, 25 wks. $6, 52 wks. $12; P, free. Sample 25¢.

Gayzette. Greater Philadelphia area newspaper. Box 15786, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Weekly. X & L, 26 wks. $4, 52 wks. $7.50; G, exchange; P, free. Sample, free.

Integrity. Gay Episcopal forum. 701 Orange, No. 6, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 10 issues yearly. X, $7, $10 airmail; L, $10; G, exchange; P, free; foreign, $10. Sample $1.

It's Time. Newsletter of the National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Avenue, Room 506, New York, NY 10011. Bimonthly. X, free with $15 membership in NGTF; L, $15; G, free; foreign $15. Sample 25¢.

Journal of Homosexuality. Journal for mental health and behavioral science professionals. Haworth Press, 130 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023. Quarterly. X, $15; L, $30; Canada add $2; other countries add $5. Sample, free to libraries (request on letterhead), other $4.

Publications

Lavender Woman. Lesbian-feminist newspaper. Box 60206, Chicago, Illinois 60660. Bimonthly. X & G, $4; L, $8; P (women), free. Sample, 65¢. Microfilm edition inquire Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak, Berkeley, California 94708.

Lesbian Connection. National lesbian journal. Ambitious Amazons, Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48823. 8 times yearly. X (women), free; L, $5 3rd class, $7.50 1st class; G, free; P (women), free; foreign, $1.50 3rd class, $2.50 1st class Canada and Mexico only. Sample, free.

Lesbian Front. Newsletter for Mississippi-Southeastern lesbians. Box 8342, Jackson, MS 39204. Monthly. X, $3.50, $4 sealed; L & G, $5; P (women), free. Sample, free for stamped reply envelope.

The Lesbian Tide. Feminist lesbian national news journal. 1005 Ocean Avenue, No. B, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Monthly. X & G, $7.50; L, $10; P, free but donation requested; foreign, $10. Sample, $1. Microfilm ed. from University Microfilms.

Lesbian Voices. Lesbian feminist quarterly. Box 3122, San Jose, CA 95116. Quarterly. All USA subscriptions, $4; foreign $5. Sample $1.

Mom's Apple Pie. Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund Newsletter, 2446 Lorentz Place N., Seattle, WA 98109. Bimonthly. All subscriptions, $2, free with $5 membership in LMNDF. Sample 25¢.

Newswest. Newspaper for gay people and their friends, 373 N. Western Avenue, Suite 203, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Biweekly. All subscriptions, 17 issues $4.50, 26 issues $6.75. Sample, 50¢.

Quest: A Feminist Quarterly. A national journal of feminist and lesbian-feminist political analysis. P.O. Box 8843, Washington, D.C. 20003. 4 times yearly; $9 a year; sample $3.35.

Code for subscription rates: X - individual; L - libraries and institutions; G - gay and lesbian-feminist organizations; P - prisoners and State-hospital patients.

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* FILMS *
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"Coming Out"
Berkeley Lesbian-Feminist Film Collective, 1974
16 mm., b/w, sound, 11min.
$15 rental

Women's Film Coop
200 North Main
Northampton, MA 01060

For lesbian-feminist audiences. Explores coming to grips with one's lesbian feelings. Effective sequence about socially induced guilt: "It's hard to fight when the enemy has outposts in your head." Generally choppy and awkward, but evocative.

"Counselling Parents of Gays"
Reverend Paul R. Shanley, 1975
Audio cassette, 45 min.
$7.95 sale; $15.95 with "Straight Talk About Gays" (see below)

Ampro Inc.
101 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108

Father Shanley has been assigned by Cardinal Medeiros of Boston to a ministry to the gay and bisexual communities. Here directly addressing Catholic parents, he reviews information about homosexuality, cuts down myths, cautions against homophobic reactions, counsels why and how to accept and support the gay child. Though he claims to talk only about male gays, most of his words will be equally meaningful for parents of lesbians. Reassuring, persuasive, practical. Prime listening for parents and for clergy and counselors in all spheres.

"Gay People/Straight Health Care"
by Jeri Dilno for Gay Nurses Alliance, 1974
Slides & separate audio cassette, color, 15 min.

Gay Nurses Alliance
P.O. Box 5687
Philadelphia PA 19129.
Being revised and converted to filmstrip, avail. Oct. 1975, price to be determined.

"Gay People/Straight Health Care", continued

Dramatizations of actual gay nurse and gay patient experiences. A gay man tries to visit his lover, who is in intensive care after a heart attack; a gay nurse is afraid to protest staff jokes about gays; a gay youngster with venereal disease sees a doctor with anti-gay views; a lesbian faced with a serious diagnosis needs the open support of her lover to cope; a gay man's arm dressings are neglected by homophobic hospital-staff after a visit from his lover. Pioneer use of audio-visuals by a gay professional organization to illustrate gay problems.

"Homosexuality: Thursday's Child"
by Naomi Katz, Alam Gelman and Charles Harrison, 1974
2 color filmstrips with sound and guide, total 36 mins.
$37.50 sale with phonodiscs,
$41.50 sale with cassettes.

Audio Visual Narrative Arts, Inc.
Box 398
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Thursday's child has far to go. . .in this case, toward social and legal equality. Interviews with a psychologist and a psychiatrist; with three gay men, including Dr. Howard Brown; with a lesbian couple who have dealt with role problems in their relationship; with writer Bertha Harris who returned to gay life after marriage. The classic charge that gays "flaunt" themselves is answered in a too-brief scene. Parts textbookish and slow. For audiences high school and older.

"Lavender"
by Colleen Monahan and Elaine Jacobs, 1972.
16 mm. film (also 8 mm. and videocassette), color, sound, 13 min..
$17 rental, $170 sale.

Perennial Education, Inc.
1825 Willow Road
Box 236
Northfield, IL 60093

A glimpse at the life of a young lesbian couple, one a seminary student. Too short to show their relationship in depth and complexity, but a wholesome and happy portrayal. Sound quality uneven.

"Lesbians and Gay Men: A New View"
produced by Cidcomed, a division of Council for Interdisciplinary Communication in Medicine Ltd., 1974
Audio cassette, 60 min.
$5 sale, bookstore discount available

Council for Interdisciplinary Communication in Medicine
230 Park Avenue
Room 563
New York, NY 10017

Taped originally for distribution to doctors, re-edited for a wider audience. A psychiatrist and four gay activists, including physician Howard Brown, discuss what homosexuality is, the failings of research on it, positive aspects as well as problems of gay life, older gays, role-playing, married gays, gay parents, how psychiatrists can be of help to gay people, etc. Some controversial topics, e.g., bisexuality, inadequately probed. The gay panelists share personal histories. Positive, basic information item, especially useful for non-gays in the healing and helping professions.

"On Being Gay"
1973
Audio cassette, 90 min.
$6.98 sale if prepaid, 35¢ extra if billed.

Thesis Creative Educational Resources
Box 11724
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Primarily for church study groups. To be heard in six sessions. Printed Study Guide with tape has questions for discussion of each part. Interviews with adult and teenage gay people, female and male, and with a lawyer, a minister, a psychiatrist, and a seminary president.

"Second Largest Minority" and "Gay and Proud"
by Lilli Vincenz, 1968 & 1970
16 mm. films, b/w, sound,
8 min. and 11 min.
Rental by arrangement.

Lilli Vincenz
5411 South 8th Place
Arlington, VA 22204

"Second Largest Minority" and "Gay and Proud," continued

First film shows next-to-last of the formal picketings by gays and Independence Hall each July 4th, 1965-69. While small in numbers and conservative by today's standards, these demonstrations shocked many people in the 1960's.
Second film shows first Christopher Street Liberation Day parade in New York City, commemorating the first time (1969) gay people fought back in a police raid on a gay bar. The huge parade and following Gay-In in Central Park reflect the new exuberance of gay pride. Sound uneven but transcript comes with films.

"Some of Your Best Friends"
by Kenneth Robinson et al, 1972
16 mm film, color, sound, 40min
Rental 1-3 days, $12; 4-6 days, $24, plus postage-insurance approximately $2.50.
Sale $325.

University of Southern California
Film Distribution Section
Division of Cinema
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Scenes of gay groups' meetings and of parades and demonstrations by gays, including a "zap" of a psychiatric meeting on behavior therapy. Reenactment of a police entrapment episode. Interviews with a lesbian and a gay man. California-oriented. Sound in group scenes hard to follow.

"Straight Talk About Gays"
by Rev. Paul R. Shanley, 1974
Audio cassette, 60 min.
$8.95 sale, $15.95 with "Counselling Parents of Gays" (see above)

Ampro Inc.
101 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108

In a conversational manner, Father Shanley talks about changing concepts of sin, civil rights for gays, bisexuality, homophobia, gay clergy, transvestism and transsexualism as distinguished from gayness, etc. minor inconsistencies on statistics. Overlong examination of alleged causes of homosexuality. Late acknowledgement that he does not claim to speak about lesbians. Limited perspective on gay male social scene. Does not delve into Catholic Church's position on morality of same-sex acts but maintains that the real moral question "is not what homosexuals do but what we do to them." Good for non-gay Catholic/Christian audiences including clergy.

Examples of Organizations That Have Issued Support and Policy Statements on Gay Rights

(Texts available from the National Gay Task Force)

Law and Government
- American Bar Association
- U.S. Civil Service Commission
- Minneapolis City Council

Science and Medicine
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Medical Association
- American Association for Science and Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Anthropological Association
- National Association of Mental Health

Educational Associations
- American Federation of Teachers
- National Education Association
- Board of Education, Washington, D.C.

Professional and Civil Rights Associations
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Library Association
- American Personnel and Guidance Association
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Organization for Women
- National Women's Political Caucus
- North American Jewish Students' Network
- Women's Action Alliance
- Young Women's Christian Association

Religious Organizations
- The American Jewish Committee (New York Chapter)
- Episcopal Church
- Lutheran Church of America
- National Council of Churches
- National Federation of Priests Councils
- Society of Friends
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- United Church of Christ

Corporations

American Airlines
ABC
American Telephone and Telegraph Company
Avon Products
Bank of America
CBS
Citicorp
Eastern Airlines
Honeywell
International Business Machines
McDonalds
NBC
Proctor and Gamble

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# PETITION for SANITY

*Editors' Note: This petition for freedom of sexual choice was prepared with the help of Kathleen Peratis, Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union; Jean O'Leary, board member of the National Gay Task Force and former chairwoman of Lesbian Feminist Liberation; Dolores Alexander, former executive director of the National Organization for Women; and Ivy Bottini, former board member of NOW and Consciousness-Raising Organizer for its Los Angeles chapter. The project was coordinated by Elissa Krauss and Gloria Steinem of the "Ms." staff. We especially wish to thank Jan Crawford, convenor of the New York City Feminist Community Coalition, who suggested this petition; Jean O'Leary, who was most responsible for making it a reality; and all those women who may wish to join us in this effort.*

We, the undersigned, wish to state publicly our opposition to an archaic practice that is still alive in this country: the attempt by government to interfere in the sexual lives of consenting adults, and the failure by government to protect the civil rights of people who suffer such interference from others.

We believe all people to have common cause in eliminating this practice. Though laws and regulations governing private sexual behavior tend to be selectively enforced against lesbians and male homosexuals—particularly from poor, minority, and politically unpopular groups—they potentially affect every person, regardless of personal power or sexual orientation. Not only do these laws and regulations leave privacy and individual freedom to the whim of employers and legislators, landlords and judges, but their enforcement results in a tragic waste of human talent. Even when not enforced, their existence serves to inhibit the free choice of lifestyle.

Therefore, we urge every person, regardless of race, age, class, sex, or sexual orientation, to join us in establishing this fundamental right to privacy and individual freedom.

As feminists, we sign this petition for one additional reason. In the history of women's struggle for self-determination, it has been a painful fact that almost any woman who did not choose to play a traditional or secondary role might find herself labeled a lesbian, and restricted in her efforts for fear of the effects of that label. Indeed, even the Women's Movement itself has sometimes been divided and weakened by this fear. Therefore, we must unite on the issue of *all* women's right to a free choice of lifestyle, regardless of sexual orientation. Only when the word *lesbian* has lost its power to intimidate and oppress, when it is as positive as other human choices, can each individual woman be fearless and free.

As women and as feminists, we pledge to work toward the following goals which we believe will benefit all citizens:

1. The repeal of all regulations and the elimination of institutional practices that limit access to employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, government or military service and child custody because of sexual orientation.

2. The repeal of all laws that make sexual acts between consenting adults criminal.

3. The passage of legislation that will guarantee each individual's rights, regardless of sexual orientation, so that those who suffer discrimination for that reason will have the same access to redress as do the victims of discrimination because of race, sex, religion, or national origin.

4. The creation of a social climate in which lifestyles may be freely chosen.

**THIS STATEMENT AND ITS LIST OF SIGNERS WILL BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, STATE LEGISLATURES, AND THE WHITE HOUSE; TO NATIONAL GROUPS ALREADY FIGHTING FOR SUCH CHANGES; AND TO WOMEN'S GROUPS IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT MAY BE ORGANIZING SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED, PLEASE FILL IN THE SPACE BELOW AND SEND TO WOMEN'S PETITION FOR SANITY, *Ms.* MAGAZINE, 370 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017.**

Signature:_____

Name:_____ Occupation/Organization:_____
(please print)

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Bella S. Abzug, *Congresswoman, N.Y.*
Margie Albert, *union organizer, District 65, Distributive Workers of America**
Maya Angelou, *writer, actress*
Ti-Grace Atkinson, *feminist*
Bette Bardeen, *attorney*
Barbara Barrie, *actress*
Elizabeth S. Bell, *nurse*
Carol Bellamy, *New York State Senator*
Roberta Benjamin, *former president, Boston National Organization for Women*
Blanche C. Bersch, *attorney*
Caroline Bird, *author*
Bea Blair, *Executive Director, National Abortion Rights Action League*
Diane Serafin Blank, *attorney*
Nancy Borman, *member of publishing collective, "Majority Report"*
Patricia Bosworth, *writer, Executive Editor, "Viva"*
Ivy Bottini, *former board member, NOW*
Jean Boudin, *poet, writer, housewife*
Rita Mae Brown, *writer, feminist organizer*
Charlotte Bunch, *editor, "Quest: A Feminist Quarterly"*
Carol Burris, *Women's Lobby*
Karen Burstein, *New York State Senator*
Josephine Catoggio, *New Yorkers for Women in Public Office*
Jacqueline Michot Ceballos, *Coordinator, New Yorkers for Women in Public Office*
Phyllis Chesler, *author, feminist*
Shirley Chisholm, *Congresswoman, N.Y.*
Marjory Collins, *editor, "Prime Time"*
Cynthia M. Cornish, *member, National Black Feminist Organization*
Diana Davies, *silversmith*
Ellen B. Davis, *Editor, "Gay Community News," Boston*
Susan Davis, *publisher, "The Spokeswoman"*
Karen DeCrow, *President, NOW*
Barbara Deming, *writer*
Carol Downer, *Feminist Women's Health Center, Los Angeles*
Rosalyn Drexler, *writer*
Sissy Farenthold, *Chairwoman, National Women's Political Caucus*
Brenda Feigen Fasteau, *attorney*
Frances FitzGerald, *writer*
Linda Francke, *General Editor, "Newsweek"*
Ellen Frankfort, *writer*

Jo Freeman, *Assistant Professor of Political Science, State University of New York, Purchase*
Jane Galvin-Lewis, *consultant, Social Change Advocates*
Jane Gapen, *poet*
June Murray Gill, *Secretary, NBFO*
Janice Goodman, *attorney*
Vivian Gornick, *writer*
Lois Gould, *writer*
Patricia A. Graham, *educator*
Carol Greitzer, *Councilwoman, New York City Council*
Elinor C. Guggenheimer, *Commissioner, New York City Department of Consumer Affairs*
Marilyn G. Haft, *Director, American Civil Liberties Union National Project on Sexual Privacy*
Elizabeth Hardwick, *writer*
LaDonna Harris, *Comanche Indian*
Wilma Scott Heide, *former President, NOW*
Aileen Hernandez, *urban consultant*
The Reverend Carter Heyward
Elizabeth Holtzman, *Congresswoman, N.Y.*
Jane T. Howard, *writer*
Florence Howe, *President, The Feminist Press*
Dolores Huerta, *First Vice-President, United Farm Workers AFL-CIO*
Dorothy Pitman Hughes, *Administrator, West Side Community Alliance*
Josephine Hulett, *Field Officer, National Committee on Household Employment*
Elizabeth Janeway, *writer*
Jill Johnston, *writer*
Erica Jong, *poet, novelist*
Karen Kaplowitz, *attorney*
Mary F. Kelly, *attorney*
Florynce Kennedy, *attorney*
Dorothy E. King, *educator, NBFO*
Lucy Komisar, *writer*
Jill Krementz, *photographer*
Mary Anne Krupsak, *Lieutenant Governor, New York State*
Carol Bonosaro Kummerfeld, *Director, Women's Rights Program, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*
Martha Weinman Lear, *journalist*
Ellen Levine, *writer*
Ann Lewis, *Aide to the Mayor of Boston*
Carol H. Libow, *attorney*
Viveca Lindfors, *actress*
Bonnie Lobel, *political organizer*
Loretta Lottman, *Director, Gay Media Action, Boston*
Patricia Loud, *author*

Sally Lunt, *Chairperson, Health Task Force, Massachusetts*
Ann Maguire, *Co-Moderator, Gay-Way, WBUR, Boston*
Marya Mannes, *author*
Agnes Martin, *artist-painter*
Jane Pierson McMichael, *Director, NWPC*
Margaret Mead, *anthropologist*
Eve Merriam, *writer, poet*
Helen S. Meyner, *Congresswoman, N.J.*
Kate Millett, *writer*
Anaïs Nin, *writer, diarist, critic*
Elaine Noble, *State Representative, Massachusetts*
Eleanor Holmes Norton, *Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights*
Joyce Carol Oates, *writer, Professor of English*
Jean O'Leary, *board member, National Gay Task Force*
Yoko Ono, *artist*
Clara Oreskes, *Editor, "Feminist Times"*
Anne O'Shea, *writer*
Gail Thain Parker, *President, Bennington College*
Kathleen Peratis, *Director, ACLU Women's Rights Project*
Eleanor Perry, *film writer, producer*
Janice Peterson, *feminist-psychotherapist*
Marge Piercy, *poet, novelist*
Rabbi Sally J. Priesand
Estelle R. Ramey, *endocrinologist*
Helen Reddy, *singer*
Mary Carol Reilly, *actress, educator*
Malvina Reynolds, *songwriter*
Carol Eisen Rinzler, *writer*
Barbara H. Roberts, M.D.
Anne Roiphe, *novelist*
Carol Rosenberger, *concert pianist*
Alice Rossi, *Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts*
Bernice Sandler, *board member, Women's Equity Action League*
Nora Sayre, *writer*
Barbara Seaman, *writer*
Marcia Seligson, *journalist*
Deborah Singletary, *student*
Margaret Sloan, *writer*
Nancy Stanley, *attorney*
Sheila Tobias, *educator*
Lily Tomlin, *actress*
Inez S. Turner, *teacher*
Kay van Deurs, *silversmith*
Linday Van Gelder, *writer*
Lenore J. Weitzman, *Secretary, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund*
Joanne Woodward, *actress*

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.